

# Bishop Urges Full Report on School Finances

Detroit — (RNS) — Complete accounting of Roman Catholic school finances which would show the public the serious money crisis existing in parochial schools was advised here at the 60th annual convention of the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA).

Bishop Joseph L. Bernardin, general secretary of the United States Catholic Conference — the secretariat of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops — urged the action in addressing the delegates' 5,000 teaching Sisters, priests, brothers, and laymen.

"If we don't let the public know the seriousness of the school situation, how are we to expect the public to help?"

The closing of Catholic schools is beginning to reach "serious proportions," he said, with approximately 500,000 elementary school children dropping out in the last two years alone.

## Diocese to Merge 'Ghetto' Schools

St. Paul — (RNS) — Six and possibly seven inner city Catholic schools in St. Paul will be consolidated by September 1970 to provide innovative, ungraded education.

Plans call for the system to be developed over a three-year period at a cost of \$3 million to \$3.5 million.

Federal funds are expected for the bulk of the costs, and in order to qualify, the schools officially will be labeled non-sectarian, said Jerome Julius, board chairman.

Religion courses would be offered but would not be mandatory. The schools would be open to all inner-city children, regardless of their religion. There "probably" will be no tuition charge, Mr. Julius said.

Innovations under the sys-

Whatever is done about Catholic education, he said, must be done in terms of the "total teaching mission of the Church," which includes those children in and out of Catholic schools — elementary, secondary, college, and adult education.

"According to this principle, we would start with the educational needs of all and then apportion our resources accordingly," he said. "If the resources were not sufficient, we would have to establish priorities."

To keep open a private or parochial school that is in financial crisis "could mean using a disproportionate share of our talent and resources, with the result that the religious education programs for those who are not in Catholic schools — both children and adults — would be impaired," he said.

Most of all, the South Carolina-born bishop said, the

Church must "consider its commitment to the poor... More of our resources — both personnel and money — must be used to help eliminate those situations which are the cause of so much physical and mental suffering and injustice for so many people."

Particularly crucial, he said,

are inner city schools which no longer serve an exclusively Catholic population. "Should these schools be abandoned?" he asked. "In terms of the Church's commitment to the poor, should they not be given a priority and therefore a meaningful proportion of our educational

dollars and personnel?" The Church must not, Bishop Bernardin said, phase out most of its schools, for "I am firmly convinced that our schools have shown themselves to be an effective instrument in the fulfillment of the Church's teaching mission..."

Catholic schools, he added, are strategically positioned to research and produce new and more effective instructional programs. To do this, however, they must maintain "a viable system" of schools.

While subjecting themselves to self-criticism, he said, Catholics must have at the same time "confidence in the Catholic school as a time-tested, powerfully effective form of the churches' teaching apostolate..."



Special Visitor

A youngster looks on happily as Archbishop Joseph T. McGucken of San Francisco tries out some of the teaching equipment at one of the inner-city parish schools. The archbishop made a day-long, on-site tour of schools in three districts. (RNS)

## Act Now on Schools, Governor Urged

Lansing, Mich. — (RNS) — The Roman Catholic bishops of Michigan, together with their lay leaders, have urged Gov. William Milliken to "act now" on the state's school problems, rather than await the results of a committee study next fall.

The five diocesan bishops and an equal number of lay leaders comprising the Michigan Catholic Conference (MCC) also directed their message to the Michigan State Legislature, asking immediate action to solve "the critical problems facing public and nonpublic education in Michigan."

Their statement came in response to Gov. Milliken's joint session message to the Legislature in which he called for "restraint and reform" in Michigan education, or to hold to his recommended spending levels until his committee can come up with measures to overhaul the entire system.

The MCC spokesman made an all-out plea for state tax support of non-public schools, along with their strong plea for the public school system. "We are committed to the goal of transforming all of our schools, both inner city and suburban, public and private, into institutions of academic excellence and centers of dignity and hope," the MCC said. "We urge the governor and the Legislature to act now to solve the critical problem facing public and non-public education in Michigan."

In the opening of their 300-word statement, the bishops and laymen said that "Catholic education in Michigan has a long history of preparing young people to live the full life of a responsible citizen. The develop-

ment of the Catholic school system has been and continues to be an immense public service to the people of Michigan.

"Therefore, we support those parents and other concerned citizens who seek public aid for that part of our school system which serves a public and secular purpose."

The spokesman said they disagreed with arguments

that "public assistance to non-public schools would direct additional funds from public education, particularly in the inner city."

"We support the request for these additional funds," they said. "However, it is a matter of record that it is precisely in these areas (the inner city) where non-public schools make their greatest contribution to the total community."

## Grape Pickers Back Away From Labor Relations Act

By GERARD E. SHERRY  
NC News Service

Fresno, Calif. — In a surprise move Cesar Chavez, leader of the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee, AFL-CIO, backed away from efforts to include the farmworkers' union under the National Labor Relations Act.

At a press conference here Chavez defined the current position he has taken for the striking grape pickers in their three-year-old dispute with growers in the Delano area.

He implied the NLRA now would impede the union growth and help the California growers against whom an effective nationwide grape boycott now is in progress.

Chavez's stand against the NLRA came at a time when 79 members of Congress, friendly to the union's struggle to organize farm workers, were preparing to introduce legislation to bring the farm workers under the law.

The National Conference of Catholic Bishops meeting in

Washington last November and the Catholic bishops of California on several occasions have advocated including the farm workers under the labor relations act.

Chavez said: "We want an exemption, for a time, from the Taft-Hartley provisions (of the NLRA) which restrict traditional union activity, especially the mandatory injunction against recognition of picketing and the secondary boycott. For us the secondary boycott is a just use of economic power."

"We are not opposed to the NLRA, our position hasn't changed. But we want it amended. We don't want just recognition by the growers alone. We want better wages, better living conditions," he said.

Chavez made it clear that he feels the farm workers need special treatment so they may "make strong and effective labor unions realistically possible in agricultural areas."

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Catholic Women Remove Hats Church Protest  
Milwaukee, Wis. — (RNS) — "Protesting what they call the second class status women in the church, women took off their hats and placed them on the nun rail of St. John Nepomuc church here today Mass.

Handbills distributed by the group stated: "Now, women! Let us not be humiliated. Let us not be treated as second class citizens. Let us not be dated. Let us be men, women, equal in Christ."  
The materials also stated that "the veil women have been the symbol of submission throughout our history. Our talents are not by the churches. We are free to use them."

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